

# First records of Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* and Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor* in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India

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Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* breeds across northern Eurasia and winters widely at temperate and more tropical latitudes, including throughout most of South Asia, in Afghanistan and Pakistan, except high mountains, across Assam, and India and Sri Lanka. Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor* breeds on the Chagos, at least on North Brother Island, and perhaps in the Maldives. It is a regular summer visitor to Sri Lanka, and has been recorded on all mainland Indian coasts, and Lakshadweep (James 2004, Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). The species is widespread in the tropical Pacific and Indian Oceans (BirdLife International 2000), but in the east Indian Ocean it breeds only on the Maldives and Adele Island, Australia (Nelson 2005). Great Frigatebirds rarely use roost islands in South-East Asia (Wells 1999). Records of vagrants are available from Malaysia, the Cocos-Keeling Islands, the Paracel Islands off southern China, the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand (Dearborn *et al.* 2003, Galbraith 2003, James 2004, Trainor 2004). There is no previous record of either species from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. We report records of both from South Andaman Island: the Eurasian Wigeon was documented photographically (Fig. 1), while the Great Frigatebird is represented by a specimen.

On 14 March 2014, a male Eurasian Wigeon was seen at Sipighat (11°36.203'N, 92°41.383'E), South Andaman. As it was potentially a first record for the Andamans, photographs were taken by SR (Fig. 1). The area where the bird was observed has been permanently inundated since the 2004 tsunami; incursion by tidal water having altered this area. The bird was with Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica*, Andaman Teal *Anas (gibberifrons) albogularis*, Cotton Teal *Nettapus coromandelianus*, Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* and Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio porphyrio*. The wigeon was larger than the Lesser Whistling Ducks and Andaman Teal, and being a male was easily identified with reference to available field guides (Grimmett *et al.* 2011, Rasmussen & Anderton 2012).

On 3 June 2013, the Forest Range Officer of Manglutan picked up a live frigatebird near the shore at New Manglutan, South Andaman. Next day the bird died and was brought to



Figure 1. Male Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* with Lesser Whistling Ducks *Dendrocygna javanica*, Sipighat, South Andaman, March 2014 (S. Rajeshkumar)



Figure 2. Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor* specimen (ZSI/ANRC/T/3296), New Manglutan, South Andaman, June 2013 (S. Rajeshkumar)

the Zoological Survey of India, Port Blair, where it is now kept as a specimen (ZSI/ANRC/T/3296). Two species of frigatebird are known from sight records on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands: a flock of 28 Lesser Frigatebirds *Fregata ariel* were observed at the southern tip of Great Nicobar and 11 more at Wandoor, South Andaman, in June–July 1997 (Sivakumar & Sankaran 2002), with a single unconfirmed record of Christmas Frigatebird *F. andrewsi* at South Andaman in 1994 (Saxema 1994 in Rasmussen & Anderton 2012).

Our examination confirmed the specimen's identity as an adult female Great Frigatebird based on the following characters. Mostly black with paler brown bar on upperwing-coverts, pale grey throat grading into white breast and upper belly, but no white spur on underwing; bill and feet reddish (Fig. 2). According to James (2004) the broad, saddle-shaped white breast and flanks, and rounded black belly are diagnostic of adult female Great Frigatebird. The dirty wash to the white breast is typical of many adult females and is not an indication of immaturity (James 2004). Biometrics also match Great Frigatebird (Tables 1–2). Christmas Frigatebird is much longer billed than Great Frigatebird, which in turn has a longer bill than Lesser Frigatebird. Culmen length of the Andaman

TABLE 1  
Biometrics of the Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor* specimen; mass was c.881 g.

Biometric	Measurements (mm)
Length	801
Wingspan	1,350
Wing	585
Culmen	124
Bill depth	18
Tail	458
Tarsus	76
Hind toe	30
Outer toe	56
Middle toe	72
Inner toe	43
Head	156
Iris	17

TABLE 2

Comparison of biometrics of Lesser Frigatebird *F. ariel* and Christmas Frigatebird *F. andrewsi* (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012) with the Andaman specimen.

Biometrics	<i>F. ariel</i>		<i>F. andrewsi</i>		<i>F. minor</i>		Andaman bird
	♂	♀	♂	♀	♂	♀	
Length	605–630	585–660	740–760	810–880	710–805	740–780	801
Head	128–134	132–143	160–170	180–190	147–160	168–180	156
Tail	300–335	240–340	385–415	379–450	375–460	395–430	458

specimen is longer than females of *F. minor* measured by James (2004), while the total length and tail length of the specimen are greater, and head length smaller than females measured by Rasmussen & Anderton (2012). Nevertheless, it is clear on the basis of plumage and overall size that the specimen is a Great Frigatebird.

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## First record of Tolima Dove *Leptotila conoveri* in the Colombian East Andes

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Tolima Dove *Leptotila conoveri* is restricted to the east slope of the Central Andes in central Colombia (Hilty & Brown 1986, Stiles 1998, Chaparro *et al.* 2014). Historically, the species was known from just two locations in dpto. Tolima (Toche and Juntas), and two in